system interfaces for the application of stimulus to and the collection of measurements from the system during test operations, wherein the specification is defined in mark-up language, a specification of units and values to be applied to the equipment during test operations, wherein the specification is defined in mark-up language, a specification of units and values to be measured during test operations, an identification of a test system response to failure, a specification for collection of test results, and a specification for storage of test results.

According to another aspect of the invention, a method of configuring test equipment is provided, the method comprising: inputting, in mark-up language format: an order of test operations, a specification of system interfaces for the application of stimulus to and the collection of measurements from the system during test operations units and values to be applied to the equipment during test operations, units and values to be measured during test operations, a test system response to a failure, a specification of collection of test results, and a specification of storage of test results. The method further comprises generating a delimited configuration file, dependent upon said inputting; and entering the delimited configuration file into test equipment. In more specific example embodiments, the mark-up language comprises SGML, XML, or HTML. According to still a more detailed example, the method further comprises generating a human-readable document dependent upon said entering.

According to still another aspect of the invention, a system is provided for configuring test equipment, the system comprising: means for inputting, in mark-up language format: an order of test operations, a specification of system interfaces for the application of stimulus to and the collection of measurements from the system during test operations, units and values to be applied to the equipment during test operations, units and values to be measured during test operations, a test system response to a failure, a specification of collection of test results, a specification of storage of test results, means for generating a delimited configuration file, dependent upon said means for inputting; and means for entering the delimited configuration file into test equipment. As before, in specific example embodiments, the mark-up language comprises SGML, XML, or HTML. Also, as before, in a still more specific example embodiment, a means is provided for generating a human-readable document dependent upon said means for entering. --

Pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121, attached is a clean version of the text of the Summary of the Invention to be inserted at page 3.

No new matter is added with this insertion to the Specification because the language only summarizes the various aspects of the invention as covered in the claims.

No fee is believed to be due with the submission of this Amendment. However, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 01-2511 for any required fees under 37 CFR 1.16-1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: _March 18, 2002_

Gordon Arnold
Reg. No. 32,395
Attorney for Applicant
Arnold & Associates
2306 Augusta, Suite 800
Houston, TX 77057
Tel.: (713) 972-1150
Fax: (713) 972-1180
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT

CLEAN VERSION – SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

According to a first aspect of the invention, a general purpose test equipment system is provided, the system comprising: hardware having common object request broker architecture software and a mark-up language enabled input connected to the hardware. According to a specific example embodiment of the invention, the mark-up language enabled input is configured for acceptance of a delimited configuration file. According to a further example, the mark-up language comprises XML, SGML, or HTML. Other mark-up languages will occur to those of skill in the art. In still a further example embodiment, the mark-up language enabled input comprises a mark-up language reader configured to receive a performance specification document and output a delimited configuration file.

In one specific example, the reader selectively outputs a human readable document corresponding to the performance specification document. In another specific example, the performance specification document comprises: an order of test operations to be performed on equipment, wherein the order of test operations is defined in mark-up language, a specification of system interfaces for the application of stimulus to and the collection of measurements from the system during test operations, wherein the specification is defined in mark-up language, a specification of units and values to be applied to the equipment during test operations, wherein the specification is defined in mark-up language, a specification of units and values to be measured during test operations, an identification of a test system response to failure, a specification for collection of test results, and a specification for storage of test results.

According to another aspect of the invention, a method of configuring test equipment is provided, the method comprising: inputting, in mark-up language format: an order of test operations, a specification of system interfaces for the application of stimulus to and the collection of measurements from the system during test operations units and values to be applied to the equipment during test operations, units and values to be measured during test operations, a test system response to a failure, a specification of collection of test results, and a specification of storage of test results. The method further comprises generating a delimited configuration file, dependent upon said inputting; and entering the delimited configuration file into test equipment. In more specific example embodiments, the mark-up language comprises SGML, XML, or HTML. According to still a more detailed example, the method further comprises generating a human-readable document dependent upon said entering.

According to still another aspect of the invention, a system is provided for configuring test equipment, the system comprising: means for inputting, in mark-up language format: an order of test operations, a specification of system interfaces for the application of stimulus to and the collection of measurements from the system during test operations, units and values to be applied to the equipment during test operations, units and values to be measured during test operations, a test system response to a failure, a specification of collection of test results, a specification of storage of test results, means for generating a delimited configuration file, dependent upon said means for inputting; and means for entering the delimited configuration file into test equipment. As before, in specific example embodiments, the mark-up language comprises SGML, XML, or HTML. Also, as before, in a still more specific example embodiment, a means is provided for generating a human-readable document dependent upon said means for entering.